

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION PUBLIC SESSION
March 1, 2012: 12:00-2:00 pm

Commissioners Present:

Tanya Bratton, May Farr, Monica Alonso, Gabriel Gonzales, Roberto Casas, Veatrice Jews, Mike Grabhorn, Monica Wilson, Akin Merino, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Tom Rivera, Chris Massa

Excused Absent: Bill Swift, Jane Godager and Michael Hill

Guests:

Dr. Cheryl Pfent, Mental Health Systems; Gabriel Uribe, Ben Jaureui, IEHP; Lupita Mendez, Alex Fajardo, Rosa Perez, Angela Valencia, El Sol Neighborhood Education Center; Wayne Henkelmann, Court Mental Health Counselors; Gwen Rodgers, EMQ FamiliesFirst; Lovetta Kelly, Pierra Hardrick, Center of Refuge; Linda Hart, African American Mental Health Coalition; Lorie Eklund, Faith Ikeda, Susan Petty, Renee Compton, Dawn Griffen, Michael Moreno, Katie Todd, Pathways to Recovery; Sarah Petrone, West End Family Counseling; Eileen Hofer, Lindsay Hubby, Lutheran Social Services; Frankie Ortega, Big Bear Recovery Services, Allan Rawland, CaSonya Thomas, Veronica Kelley, Dr. Hanh Truong, Tim Jackson Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). Minutes recorded by Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission.

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. Commissioner Casas led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions followed.

A motion made by Chris Massa and seconded by Roberto Casas: The 2/2/12 Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) minutes were approved as written. Motion passed; no abstentions.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – MARCH 2012

Veronica Kelley, Deputy Director introduced Dr. Hanh Truong as DBH's new Cultural Competency Officer, who will carry on the tradition of presenting the Cultural Competency Award of Excellence at the Behavioral Health Commission meetings. The March Award of Excellence was presented to Tim Jackson, Peer & Family Advocate II.

Nomination: *"Please consider Tim Jackson for the Cultural Competency Excellent Award. Tim demonstrates cultural competence in his work with the clubhouse; he keeps clubhouse members informed of the many cultural events they can be involved in and also drives clubhouse members on his days off or after hours so the members can actively participate. He also Chairs the CCAC Native American Sub-Committee and is actively involved in the coordination of the Native American Sub-Committee events."*

Tim enjoys watching people grow through their recovery. He is thankful for today's honor. Director Rawland acknowledges Tim for paying back by mentoring others. CONGRATULATIONS TIM!

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel announced the items discussed during BHC Executive Session:

- The BHC will focus on visiting county and contract agency programs looking for best practices.

- Due to the retirement of Allan Rawland, Linda Haugan, Assistant Executive Officer, Human Services met with the BHC during closed session to review and discuss the application of CaSonya Thomas. In an 8-1 vote, the BHC provided their approval to recommend the appointment of Ms. Thomas as DBH Director to the Board of Supervisors.
- The February 5th District Advisory Committee (DAC) was a working meeting to explore Prevention and Early Intervention concepts. Susan thanked Michelle Dusick and Max Friend for facilitating.
- Susan and the Cal State nursing students have enjoyed collaborating with El Sol Neighborhood and the Promotoras for a health fair on 3/18/12.
- The 2/10/12 African American Mental Health Coalition Symposium in honor of African American Mental Health week, was a huge success.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

First District:

Commissioner Michael Grabhorn visited the Lisa Project: A Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Exhibit in Victorville. Mike congratulated Tim Jackson on his award; "It's all about saving one person at a time."

Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales has completed three new art projects. He has also been working with his church group delivering food baskets to the homeless in his community.

Second District:

Commissioner May Farr participated in all the Black History Month celebrations held at the Clubhouses. Big Al's team is retiring from the NAMI Walk this year to be replaced by CaSonya's team.

Commissioner Monica Alonso participated in the PEI Public Forum yesterday at Amazing Place Clubhouse to discuss needs in the community. Suggestions included: access to higher education, additional resources, Crisis Intervention Training, etc.

Third District:

Commissioner Chris Massa attended the 19th Annual Black History Month celebration on 2/24/12, sponsored by the San Bernardino County African American Association of Employees. CaSonya Thomas serves as the President.

Secretary Tanya Perry stated that today is her last BHC meeting. She has decided to resign in order to actively advocate for services in her community. The BHC presented Commissioner Perry a plaque acknowledging her dedicated service since 2006. Director Rawland stated that her leadership will continue.

Fourth District:

Commissioner Akin Merino acknowledged Linda Hart and the African American Mental Health Coalition for hosting an outstanding symposium in honor of African American Mental Health Week. Argosy University will host the 2nd Annual Inland Empire Counseling Psychology Students Conference on 4/14/12, to discuss approaches to youth health and mental wellness.

Commissioner Roberto Casas welcomed Dr. Truong and thanked Veronica Kelley for all she has done promoting cultural competency in San Bernardino County. Dr. Casas appreciates Allan's leadership and looks forward to CaSonya's continued contributions. Approximately 40 community members attended the 2nd / 4th DAC meeting held in Chino to identify problems and come up with PEI solutions.

Commissioner Monica Wilson attended multiple Black History month activities in February. The Inland Empire African American Concerned Pastors are reaching out to other faith based communities. Dr. Wilson had the opportunity to network at the State of the County event last evening.

Fifth District:

Treasurer Veatrice Jews thanked everyone for keeping her family in their thoughts and prayers due to the passing of her sister. Her sister was a passionate advocate for consumers in Louisiana. When she came to visit in CA she would take back best practices.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Rawland announced that today is his last BHC meeting before retirement. This is very difficult to give up after 46 years in the business.

- Allan applauded the BHC for their many activities in the community for \$0 pay.
- DBH will be recognized for the 2nd year by the Equal Opportunity Commission during the Board of Supervisors meeting on 2/13/12.
- The PEI Community Forums are taking place throughout the county, using Webinar to connect folks in outlying regions.
- The Open House for the co-location project, ARMC Westside Clinic, Behavioral Health and WIC services will be held on 3/8/12. BHRC will be renamed to San Bernardino County Health Services Center.
- The One-Stop Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Center Open House is scheduled for 4/2/12. The newly refurbished Center is located on Gilbert and will provide residential crisis and TAY services.
- Dr. Ron Smith, Program Manager II for Upland and Vista Community Counseling is retiring effective 3/23/12. He significantly contributed to integrated healthcare. Linda Charkins, Clinic Supervisor of Upland is also retiring.

Budget and other Policy Issues:

- Federal: President submitted 2013 impact on healthcare reform
- State: Assembly & Senate Health Committee Hearings continue to discuss restructuring the behavioral health system. Medi-Cal and Drug Medi-Cal functions have been distributed to six different agencies making it difficult for counties. If approved, dismantling of the CA Department of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Programs will become effective 7/1/12.

As a tribute to Allan, member of the BHC presented him with neckties they had worn to today's meeting. Allan has enjoyed the last 6 ½ years in San Bernardino County (SBC).

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**Peer Driven Room and Board Coalition**

Cynthia White, Chief Patients' Rights Advocate stated that due to an unfortunate event in our county at a Room and Board location, DBH Patient' Rights took action gathering clients and providers to determine housing needs of clients and what is acceptable. The coalition empowers clients to make informed decisions and develop personal accountability as they are woven into the community. After 18 months there are 20 approved room and boards, with a total of 135 beds. Monthly meeting attendance has increased to over 40 clients, providers and operators.

SBC is the first county to establish a Peer Driven Room and Board Coalition. CA Office of Patients' Rights and Disability Rights CA have expressed interest in sharing this concept throughout the state; offering SBC as a reference for those interested in implementing.

Big Bear Mental Health Alliance (BBMHA)

Lindsey Hubby, Area Director Lutheran Social Services stated that San Bernardino County has been working with the Big Bear Mental Health Alliance to provide services in the underserved Big Bear area. Lutheran Social Services, Alliance for Behavioral and Emotional Treatment (ABET) program was selected as a Mental Health Services Act contractor for the county, a demonstration project in collaboration. Member agencies provide services for substance abuse, medical care, domestic violence, school related services, mental health and transportation, and

prenatal/maternal/child. The purpose of ABET is to reduce the number of hospitalizations down the hill. Challenges include finding a Psychiatrist, therapists assigned to go into the schools and an ABET Case Manager/Coordinator, van transportation and a robust public relations campaign.

Commissioner McGee-Stehsel recommended they enlist a Cal State intern to develop a public relations plan. Commissioner Casas asked if they could help recruit a Third District Behavioral Health Commissioner to fill the seat vacated by Tanya Perry.

Upcoming special presentations to the Behavioral Health Commission include:

- 4/5/12: Clubhouse Update
- 5/3/12: Mental Health Plan and Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP)
- 6/7/12: MHSA FY 2012-13 Annual Update

NEW BUSINESS

A motion made by May Farr and seconded by Veatrice Jews: Pay the annual CA Association of Local Mental Health Boards/Commissions membership dues of \$300.

OUTSIDE AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS

- Promotoras de Salud presented Allan a plaque thanking him for his partnership for the last four years. The Promotoras model is being used in other diverse groups.
- Lynn Neuenswander, DBH Public Information Officer announced that BHC Annual Report is now on the BHC website <http://www.sbcounty.gov/bhcommission>
- Ben Jauregui, IEHP Disability Program Manager, states that due to the recent changes in Medi-Cal individual are not enrolling as they should. He requested to present at an upcoming BHC meeting. Assistant Director Thomas suggested a joint ArrowCare and IEHP presentation.
- Linda Hart thanked Director Rawland for working with the African American Mental Health Coalition for the last several years; "You took a ride through our community and brought our concerns to the table". She challenged him to a game of pool at his retirement party on 3/30/12.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Susan McGee-Stehsel
Chairperson

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission